

IN THE CLAIMS:

This complete listing of the claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application.

We claim:

Claims 1-11 - (Cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A cosmetic composition containing ~~electric carriers~~ an electret material which comprises

0.1 to 10% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable, solid electret material with a particle size of 0.05 to 100 μm , which electret material has an induced permanent dipole moment and a permanent electric dipole field with a field strength of 500 to 10^7 Vm^{-1} , the percentage data being relative to the total weight of the composition, and

furthermore comprising cosmetic carrier substances, cosmetic auxiliaries, further cosmetic active agents or a mixture thereof.

13. (currently amended) A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the electret which is to be brought in the electret ~~electrete~~ state is selected from among polymerised fluorocarbons, polyethyleneterephthalate, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimides, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyurethanes, polyureas, ceramics, glasses, glass ceramics and mixtures thereof, all of which have been converted into the electret state.

14. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein the polymerised fluorocarbons are selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), amorphous fluoropolymer (AF) and mixtures thereof.

15. (withdrawn) A composition according to Claim 13 wherein the ceramics or glass ceramics are those containing oxidic base materials, selected from the group consisting of zirconium oxide, titanium oxide, magnesium oxide, lithium oxide, calcium oxide, silicon dioxide, barium oxide and mixtures thereof.

16. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the electret has an induced permanent electric dipole moment in the range of 10^{-15} to 10^{-24} Coulomb x meter.

17. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the electret is used together with

- a cosmetic active agent, which active agent is selected from among a product containing Vitamin A and is added in an amount to impart at least 0.1% Vitamin A to the overall composition,

- a product containing Vitamin E, which product is added in an amount to impart at least 0.1% Vitamin E to the overall composition,

- a product containing Creatine, or

- a mixture including two or more of the above.

18. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 17 wherein the Vitamin A content or the Vitamin E content is provided by a Vitamin A derivative or a Vitamin E derivative, respectively.

19. (previously presented) A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the electret has a permanent electric field with a coercive force of 10^4 to 10^6 Vm^{-1} .

20. (withdrawn) A method for improving absorption of nutrients and/or active agents into the skin, the method comprising

adding electrets with an induced permanent dipole moment and a dipole field strength of 500 to 10^7 Vm^{-1} and with a particle size of 0.05 to 100 μm , selected from polymerised fluorocarbons, polyethylene-terephthalate, polymethyl methacrylate, polyimides, poly-propylene, polyethylene, polyurethanes, polyureas, ceramics, glasses, glass ceramics and mixtures thereof, all of which have been converted into an induced electret state, in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on the final total composition, to a cosmetic formulation comprising nutrients and/or active agents, and further comprising cosmetic carrier substances, auxiliaries, further active agents or a mixture thereof, and

applying said formulation to skin.

21. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 20, wherein said formulation is in the form of a cosmetic cream, lotion, gel, powder or stick.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 20, wherein said nutrient or active agent is selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin E, creatine, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

23. (previously presented) A cosmetic composition containing electric carriers which comprises 0.1 to 10% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable, solid electret material with a particle size of 0.05 to 100 μm , which electret material has an induced permanent dipole moment and a permanent electric dipole field with a field strength of 500 to 10^7 Vm^{-1} , furthermore comprising cosmetic carrier substances, auxiliaries, further active agents or a mixture thereof in an amount ranging up to 100% by weight, the percentage data being relative to the total weight of the composition, prepared by heating of a non-ferromagnetic solid material to a temperature below its melting temperature but above its softening temperature, exposing of the solid material to an electric field of 1000 to 10^7 V/m , spontaneous cooling the solid material, grinding of the produced electret material to a particle size of 0.05 to 100 μm and mixing into a cosmetic composition below 50°C .